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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-sixth session
7-18 June 1993

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

To be convened at United Nations Headquarters,
on Monday, 7 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views.
4. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.*
5. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session (A/AC.105/543).
6. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/544).
7. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
9. Other matters.
10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

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* Priority item in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 47/67.

ANNOTATIONS*

Items 1 and 2: Adoption of the agenda

Statement by the Chairman

1. Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee and the organization of work, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its thirty-fifth session. The provisional schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present document.

Item 3: General exchange of views

2. The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. (Delegations wishing to speak under this item are asked to submit their names to the Secretariat as soon as possible.)

Item 4: Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/67 of 14 December 1992, paragraph 30, requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

4. The General Assembly, in paragraph 29 of the same resolution, took note of the views expressed during the thirty-fifth session of the Committee and during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

Item 5: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session (A/AC.105/543)

5. At its thirtieth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee in its report to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly 1/ and paragraph 8 of resolution 47/67, considered the following questions:

(a) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

(b) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

6. The Subcommittee conducted, on a priority basis, a joint consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the implementation of the

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* The annotations are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee.

recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82). 2/ The Subcommittee's report contains a review of the Space Applications Programme and its activities for 1992 and 1993 and a proposed programme of activities for 1994, which it recommended for approval. 3/

7. Regarding the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system, the Subcommittee in its report continued to stress the necessity of ensuring such coordination. 4/

8. On the question of regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation, the Subcommittee took note of the efforts undertaken as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, in accordance with the UNISPACE 82 recommendation concerning the development of indigenous capabilities, to establish regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national or regional educational institutions in developing countries, as outlined in the report entitled "Centres for Space Science and Technology Education: updated project document" (A/AC.105/534), and urged Member States to support the development of such regional centres. 5/

(c) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

9. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item on a priority basis, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 46 to 61 of its report. The Subcommittee recommended that the item be retained on its agenda as a priority item for the next session. 6/

(d) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

10. The Subcommittee noted that the General Assembly had adopted a Set of Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space as contained in resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992 and that the Principles provided that they should be reopened for revision by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space no later than two years after their adoption. 7/

11. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item on a priority basis and adopted the report of its Working Group (A/AC.105/543, annex III). The Subcommittee took note of working papers submitted by the United Kingdom (A/AC.105/C.1/L.187), and the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.1/L.188) on safety aspects of nuclear power sources in space, and a paper circulated by Pakistan (S&T/1993/CRP.2) on risks and radiological consequences of debris collisions with nuclear power sources in space. The Working Group considered a number of questions relating to possible ways of revising the Principles and recommended that it be reconvened next year to continue its works. 8/

(e) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

12. During the course of its discussion on this item, the Subcommittee took note of the developments in the various programmes relating to space transportation systems, as reflected in paragraphs 63 to 65 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the item be continued at its next session. 9/

(f) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

13. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item, and the views expressed are reflected paragraphs 71 to 74 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the item be continued at its next session. 10/

(g) The theme fixed for special attention at the 1993 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space-based communication: the expansion of current services and increased understanding of new systems and the services they will make possible"

14. The Subcommittee paid special attention to this theme and noted with satisfaction that, at its invitation, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) had organized a symposium on the theme. A summary of the presentations made as part of the symposium and of the special presentations arranged by delegations during the session of the Subcommittee is contained in document A/AC.105/546.

15. The Subcommittee selected a theme for special attention at its thirty-first session, "Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief", as indicated in paragraph 110 (g) of its report. The Subcommittee recommended that COSPAR and IAF, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, on that theme during the first week of the Subcommittee's session. 11/

(h) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

(i) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

(j) Matters relating to planetary exploration

(k) Matters relating to astronomy

16. The Subcommittee continued consideration of these items, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 76-81, 83-87 and 89-91 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the items be continued at its next session. 12/

(l) Other matters

(i) International Space Year

17. The Subcommittee took note of the activities undertaken by the United Nations for International Space Year (ISY) (A/AC.105/445/Add.9) and expressed appreciation to Member States and international organizations that had made voluntary contributions for the purpose. The Subcommittee noted that the

international programmes initiated during ISY had contributed to international cooperation in space activities, particularly in studying and monitoring the environment, and recognized the importance of continuing these cooperative activities. The Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to continue to promote international cooperation in the activities initiated during ISY and to keep it informed of further developments in that area. 13/

(ii) Third UNISPACE Conference

18. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Working Group of the Whole considered the question of the possibility of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE), as reflected in paragraph 32 below.

(iii) Space and Earth Environment

19. The Subcommittee noted that the General Assembly, in resolution 47/67, had recommended that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment. The Subcommittee also noted that the Assembly had considered that it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of space debris and had called for the continuation of national research on the question. 14/

20. The Subcommittee considered the question of space debris, as reflected in paragraphs 101 to 103 of its report. The Subcommittee took note of the information on national research on space debris submitted by Member States in response to a request from the Secretary-General (A/AC.105/510 and Add.1 and 2). It also took note of a working paper on the subject submitted by Poland (A/AC.105/C.1/L.186). 15/

21. The Subcommittee requested that the Committee consider whether the question of space debris should be included in the Subcommittee's agenda for its next session. 16/

22. The Subcommittee noted that the Secretariat was preparing an analytical study on the role that the Committee could play in view of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 17/ as reflected in paragraph 33 below.

Item 6: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/544)

23. At its thirty-second session, the Legal Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67, paragraph 4, considered the following matters:

(a) Question of early review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

24. The Subcommittee expressed satisfaction that the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space had been adopted, without a vote, by the General Assembly. The Subcommittee noted that the subject of the use of

nuclear power sources in outer space had been considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirtieth session as indicated in its report. 18/

25. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group on agenda item 3, considered the item. The report of the Working Group is contained in annex I of the report of the Subcommittee.

(b) Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

26. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item; a summary of the discussion in the Working Group is contained in annex II to the report of the Subcommittee.

(c) Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries

27. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item. The various views expressed on the item are contained in annex III to the report of the Subcommittee.

Item 7: Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

28. As mentioned in paragraph 6 above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee conducted, on a priority basis, a joint consideration of this item and of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Subcommittee, in its report, took note of the developments relating to the International Space Information Service, studies, inter-agency cooperation and regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation. 19/

29. The Subcommittee reconvened, in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 47/67, the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Subcommittee adopted the report of the Working Group, 20/ which contains conclusions and recommendations on the further implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and the work of the Secretariat. 21/

Item 8: Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

30. The General Assembly, in paragraph 31 of resolution 47/67, requested the Committee to continue to consider at its current session its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status".

Item 9: Other matters

(a) Third UNISPACE Conference

31. Following a proposal made at the Committee's thirty-fifth session, 22/ the General Assembly, in paragraph 20 of resolution 47/67, recommended that Member States might discuss during the next sessions of the Committee under its agenda item "Other matters" the possibility of holding a third UNISPACE conference in the future.

32. The question was considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's Working Group of the Whole, which recommended that it could be useful to address the potential for a third UNISPACE conference. The Working Group also recommended that the Committee address the question of such a conference at its next session under its agenda item "Other matters", considering its objectives and goals and such aspects as organization, venue, timing, funding implications and other matters. 23/ The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee endorsed that recommendation. 24/

(b) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

33. The Committee, at its thirty-fifth session, agreed that the Secretariat should prepare for the Committee at the current session an analytical report on the role that the Committee could play in view of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. 25/ The Committee recognized the unique opportunity for the Committee to play an active role, where possible, in implementing relevant recommendations of that Conference and invited Member States to submit views for inclusion in that report. 26/ The Committee will have before it the report prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.105/547).

(c) Venue of the Legal Subcommittee

34. The Committee decided, at its thirty-fourth session, to defer a decision on the current practice of holding alternate sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva until the present session, when it could more fully evaluate the impact of the alternation system on the Committee's operations. 27/ The views of the Legal Subcommittee on the question are reflected in paragraph 17 of its report.

(d) Other reports

35. The Committee will have before it the report and proceedings of the United Nations/ISPRS Workshop on Remote Sensing (A/AC.105/545) and the report on the scientific and technical presentations in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/546). Additional reports may be submitted to the Committee as available. The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

(e) Observer status

36. A request has been received from the Association of Space Explorers for observer status with the Committee. That request is before the Committee in document A/AC.105/L.200.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/47/20), para. 149.

2/ A/AC.105/543, paras. 18-45.

3/ Ibid., paras. 23-33.

4/ Ibid., para. 39.

5/ Ibid., paras. 41-42.

6/ Ibid., para. 53.

7/ Ibid., para. 55.

8/ Ibid., annex III, paras. 9 and 10.

9/ A/AC.105/543, para. 66.

10/ Ibid., para. 75.

11/ Ibid., para. 111.

12/ Ibid., paras. 82, 88 and 92.

13/ Ibid., paras. 93-97.

14/ Ibid., para. 99.

15/ Ibid., para. 104.

16/ Ibid., para. 105.

17/ Ibid., para. 77.

18/ A/AC.105/544, paras. 26 and 28.

19/ A/AC.105/543, paras. 34-45.

20/ Ibid., annex II.

21/ Ibid., paras. 6-21.

22/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/47/20), para. 51.

23/ A/AC.105/543, annex II, para. 20.

24/ A/AC.105/543, para. 98.

25/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/47/20), para. 103.

26/ Ibid., para. 154.

27/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/46/20), para. 156.

Annex

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF WORK

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Monday, 7 June		Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda Item 2 - Statement by the Chairman Item 3 - General exchange of views
Tuesday, 8 June	Item 3 - (continued)	Item 3 - (continued)
Wednesday, 9 June	Item 3 - (continued)	Item 4 - Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
Thursday, 10 June	Item 4 - (continued)	Item 4 - (continued)
Friday, 11 June	Item 5 - Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee* Item 7 - Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*	Item 5 - (continued) Item 7 - (continued)
Monday, 14 June	Item 5 - (continued) Item 7 - (continued)	Item 6 - Report of the Legal Subcommittee
Tuesday, 15 June	Item 6 - (continued)	Item 6 - (continued)
Wednesday, 16 June	Item 8 - Spin-off benefits of space technology	Item 8 - (continued)
Thursday, 17 June	Item 9 - Other matters	Item 10 - Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
Friday, 18 June	Item 10 - (continued)	Item 10 - (continued)

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* As in the past, items 5 and 7 will be considered jointly.